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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Yasuteru TAKAHAMA et al

Serial No. : 09/955,857

Filed : September 19, 2001

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Art Unit : 2872

Examiner : M.A. Robinson

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
WITH STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)
AND STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

Submitted herewith are the following:

- (1) Copy of Search Report/Official Action issued in counterpart European application;
- (2) Copies of the cited publication(s); and
- (3) Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B. It is requested that an initialed copy of the Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B be returned to indicate that the publication(s) listed therein have been considered and made of record.

Said communication is in English, thereby satisfying the requirements for a concise explanation of relevance for any non-English language publications cited therein (MPEP 609 III A(3)).

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STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1)

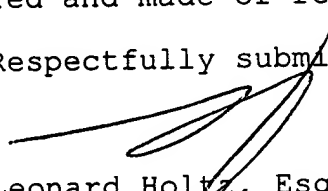
Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement. Said Communication bears a mailing date of February 25, 2003. Therefore, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is timely under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) and does not require a fee.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in said communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement.

It is respectfully requested that the attached publication(s) be considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,


Leonard Holtz, Esq.
Reg. No. 22,974

Encls.

Dated: March 17, 2003

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